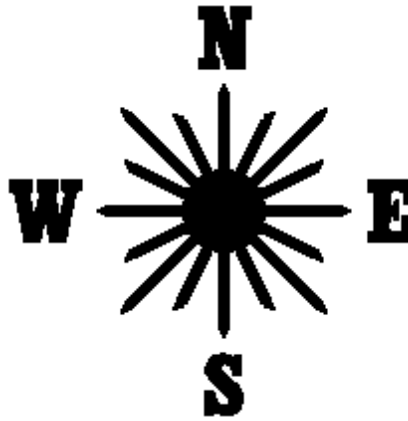


Mission Statement

To promote the Central Darling Shire area by encouraging development through effective leadership, community involvement and facilitation of services

CENTRAL DARLING



SHIRE COUNCIL

Minutes

For the Ordinary Meeting

Tuesday 18th November 2014 at 9:00am

In the Council Chambers

Wilcannia

Council dedicated to serving its Communities

Any public discussion of Council or Committee reports and recommendations is on the basis that such reports or recommendations do not have effect until adopted by a full meeting of Council.

The Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held in the Council Chambers, Wilcannia on Tuesday 18 November 2014 commencing at 9:00am.

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SECTION 1. ATTENDANCE

PRESENT:

Greg Wright Administrator

ALSO PRESENT:

Michael Boyd General Manager
Reece Wilson Director Shire Services
Jacob Philp Director Business Services
Nicole Sanderson Executive Assistant

SECTION 2. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST – PECUNIARY AND NON PECUNIARY

NIL

SECTION 3. PUBLIC ACCESS – QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Nieves Rivera addressed the Council Meeting regarding the following issue:

- Information regarding how this administration can access community and other grants.

The General Manager noted the previous resolution passed by Council in February 2014 and advised that Council at present time does not have the financial capacity to apply for grants which require a co-contribution from Council albeit there may be demand from the community for that purpose.

Jennifer Thwaites addressed the Council Meeting with the following question:

- Could you give me an update regarding the reinstatement of Councillors?

The Administrator referred to the Administrator's Minute Report for explanation.

SECTION 4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

1-11-14

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on the 21st October 2014, be taken as read and confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings of the meeting.

Resolved

4.1 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

NIL

SECTION 5. ADMINISTRATOR’S MINUTE REPORT

Period of Administration

After two three month suspensions periods and a subsequent four months of further suspension during the conduct of a Public Inquiry, the interim Administration of the Central Darling Shire Council has come to an end. Regrettably, it has not ended in the return of the elected Councillors to office but in their dismissal and the placing of the Council into full Administration for a lengthy period of time.

It is not appropriate for me to comment on the Minister’s decision or the recommendation to him by the Commissioner of the Public Inquiry. However I have agreed to stay on as Administrator for a period of time, though it is unlikely to be until September 2020, and I will continue my work of rehabilitating the Council’s finances and governance structures and processes until such time as I feel that the role can be handed on to a new Administrator.

The move to long term Administration will require some changes in the current arrangements including those for my attendance in the Shire and the conduct of Council meetings. In order to provide more flexibility of attendance I will only book in one, longer fixed visit to the Shire per month (rather than the current two shorter visits) and will allow for one other visit each month in response to specific issues. In this way, I will be able to attend more community or civic events than my previously fixed schedule would allow, without involving unnecessary additional costs.

It will be necessary to re-arrange Council meetings in order to allow for longer visits that do not clash with my other business activities. I am proposing to move Council meetings in 2015 to the fourth Wednesday of each month. With Council meetings on the third Tuesday (at present) I need to return to Sydney on Tuesday afternoons for a regular and long standing Wednesday business commitment. By moving to the fourth week of the month I avoid this conflict and can then be in the Shire from Monday to Wednesday on those weeks. Having Council meetings in the mornings of the Wednesday allows me all day Tuesday to visit other centers in the Shire. I am currently proposing to make myself available to the public in Ivanhoe, Menindee and White Cliffs regularly throughout the year for community consultations. In addition, I will also be able to make special trips at other times to attend specific events without increasing the cost to the Council.

It is my belief that these arrangements will allow me greater opportunities to meet with Shire residents and groups throughout the year. During the interim administration there was a higher concentration on what might be called the “rectification works”. Now, it will also be required to conduct a higher level of community consultation and engagement in the absence of elected representatives. It is proposed that the new arrangements will commence with the first meeting of 2015 and the draft Council meeting calendar for the year will be presented to the December Council meeting for adoption. Formal Council meetings will continue to be held in Wilcannia.

2-11-14

That the information contained in the Administrator’s Minute be noted.

Resolved

SECTION 6. DETERMINATION REPORTS

6.1 CALENDAR OF COMPLIANCE AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS 2014/15

3-11-14

That Council note the ongoing progress for October 2014 on the Compliance and Reporting Requirements 2014/15.

Resolved

The Administrator noted that the report had been written by the General Manager at the time of report preparation and that it was anticipated that the Financial Statements would be available for the meeting in accordance with Section 416(1) of the Local Government Act 1993. The statements were in fact still with the Auditor and should be available for the December Meeting. An extension of time will be sought from the Office of Local Government relating to the submission of the Statements.

6.2 RECOVERY PLAN 2014 – MONTHLY REVIEW OF PROGRESS

4-11-14

That Council note the ongoing progress on the Recovery Plan 2014.

Resolved

The Administrator noted that items 3.1 and 3.2 referred to Council reporting on progress of the Recovery Plan and Compliance Calendar respectively on a quarterly basis but in fact the progress is currently reported to Council on a monthly basis by the General Manager. Following the Administrator's ongoing appointment by the Minister of Local Government, consideration may be given to the reports being provided to Council on a quarterly basis.

6.3 JANUARY 2015 COUNCIL MEETING

5-11-14

That Council does not hold a Council Meeting in January 2015.

Resolved

6.4 CHRISTMAS FUNCTION

6-11-14

That the Council hold a Christmas lunch function at Wilcannia on 16 December 2014 and that all staff be required to attend.

Resolved

6.5 REGIONAL ROADS REPAIR PROGRAM

7-11-14

That Council:

Endorses the recommendations of the Director Shire Services and that staff submit an application for Regional Roads Repair Program funding in the amount of \$400,000 for grid replacement and resealing works on the Darnick Rd.

Considers allocating \$400,000 of the Regional Road Block Grant in the 2016/17 budget to match the funding amount and enable works to be completed.

Resolved

6.6 2014/15 ROADS TO RECOVERY PROJECTS

8-11-14

That Council endorses the recommendation of the Director Shire Services and allocates 2014/15 Roads to Recovery funding to MR68C Pooncarie Rd surface improvements \$352,409.

Resolved

6.7 ANNUAL REPORT - JULY 2013 TO JUNE 2014

9-11-14

That the draft Annual Report be endorsed subject to further inclusions and amendments.

Resolved

SECTION 7. INFORMATION REPORTS

7.1 INFORMATION ITEMS

6.1.1 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES STATISTICS

Following is a statistical summary of legislative activities undertaken by Environmental Services during October 2014:

| <u>Statistics for October 2014</u> | |
|---|---|
| Number DA'S Approved | 0 |
| Total Value of DA's approved | Nil |
| Food Premises Inspected | Nil |
| Animal Control Activities | Impounded = 16, Rehomed = 12, Returned to Owner = 2 , Euthanized = 2 Registrations = 1 , Microchipped = 3 , Penalty Notices Issued = 8 |
| Water Sampling | Microbiology Samples Collected = 10 Chemistry Samples Collected = Nil Disinfection By Products = Program Completed Non-compliant Samples = Nil |

7.1.2 ROAD GRADING PROGRAM

The Yearly Grading Program has been included to enable Council to follow the progress of the grading crews working throughout the Shire. Any changes will be presented on a monthly basis.

7.1.3 ROADS REPORT

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the roads expenditure to date

State Roads:

- 2014/2015 RMCC works estimated cost for Routine Maintenance Works on both highways is \$700,000.
- 7 Works Orders have been received to date.
- SH21 Capital Works 2014/15 will be undertaken by Road Services, Broken Hill

| | Original Budget | Expended | % Expended |
|----------------------|-----------------|-----------|------------|
| RMCC (Routine Works) | \$700,000 | \$178,448 | 25% |
| RMCC (Ordered Works) | \$1,115,097 | \$265,328 | 24% |

Regional Roads:

- 2014/15 Regional Road Block Grant including traffic and supplementary components is \$2,545,000.
- \$540,000 has been allocated to the Balranald Rd Reconstruction Works
- \$400,000 has been allocated to the Regional Roads Repair Program, Darnick Rd

| | Original Budget | Expended | % Expended |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------|------------|
| Regional Road Block Grant | \$1,605,000 | \$670,596 | 42% |

Local Roads:

- 2014/15 Local Roads Component (FAG) is \$1,480,000. Councils allocated budget amount is \$828,000

| | Original Budget | Expended | % Expended |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------|------------|
| Local Roads Component (FAG) | \$828,000 | \$335,020 | 40% |

7.1.4 SERVICES

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the services expenditure to date.

| | Original Budget | Expended | % Expended |
|---|-----------------|----------|------------|
| Parks & Gardens/ Sporting Facilities | \$188,350 | \$44,067 | 23% |
| Ancillary Works | \$158,000 | \$33,133 | 21% |
| Street Cleaning/ Bins | \$137,000 | \$35,903 | 25% |
| Aerodromes | \$50,000 | \$35,518 | 71% |
| Public Conveniences | \$47,500 | \$12,551 | 26% |

Water & Sewerage Maintenance:

- Wilcannia town water supply is currently being sourced from the Union Bend Bore Field.
- White Cliffs town water supply is sourced from ground tanks current levels: Tank 1 =3.5 m, Tank 2 =3.0m, Tank 3 (Wakefield 4.00m).
- Ivanhoe town water supply is currently being sourced from the Morrisons Lake reservoir. Morrison’s Lake storage is currently 410 megalitres, town storage dam 45 megalitres.

| | Original Budget | Expended | % Expended |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------|------------|
| Wilcannia Water | \$352,500 | \$102,248 | 29% |
| Wilcannia Sewer | \$75,000 | \$38,332 | 51% |
| White Cliffs Water | \$166,500 | \$37,257 | 22% |
| Ivanhoe Water | \$231,000 | \$51,949 | 22% |

7.1.5 CAPITAL WORKS

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the capital works and projects expenditure to date

| Project | Comments | Original Budget | Expended | % Expended |
|--|--|-----------------|-------------|---------------|
| Remote Communities Water & Sewer Project | Civil works contract awarded. Start April and completion expected December 2014 | \$3,161,000 | \$2,126,091 | 67% |
| | Council Supervision | \$77,232 | \$53,090 | 69% |
| Aboriginal Communities Water and Sewer | 5 year service agreement completed. | \$121,000 | \$32,992 | 27% |
| | Filtered Pipeline over Old Wilcannia Bridge completed July 2014 | \$54,000 | \$54,000 | 100% Complete |
| Sunset Strip Drainage | Low lying areas adjacent to road and properties to be investigated, surveyed and design drafted. | \$10,000 | \$0 | 0% |
| Boat Ramps | Wilcannia Boat Ramp | \$85,000 | \$0 | 0% |
| | Tilpa Boat Ramp | \$72,000 | \$0 | 0% |
| Menindee BMX Bike Track | Completed July 2014 | \$6,000 | \$6,000 | 100% |
| Menindee Multi Sporting Complex | Concrete Base Slab programmed for completion early Sep 2014 | \$86,000 | \$86,000 | 100% |

| | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|-----------|-----------|------|
| Plant and Equipment | 1 single cab Isuzu 4WD purchased to date | \$150,000 | \$25,839 | 17% |
| MR67 Balranald Rd Reconstruction | Works commenced 28 th July. Expected completion October 2014 | \$540,000 | \$562,160 | 104% |
| Tilpa Airstrip Fence | Works programmed for completion by end November 2014 | \$60,000 | \$50,534 | 84% |
| MR433 Darnick Rd RRRP | Works programmed for early 2015 | \$800,000 | \$0 | 0% |

7.1.6 WILCANNIA WEIR

A recent media release from the Minister for Natural Resources, Land and Water Kevin Humphries MP announces the provision of \$189,000 for a weir feasibility study to be undertaken. Funding for the study is being made available under the “Water Securities for Regions Program”.

Stephen Palmer, Acting Director, Urban Water Program Director, Water Security for Regions, NSW Office of Water advised that his office will be administering the project which is estimated to take 9 months to complete. Stephen further advised that all relevant stakeholders including Council will be updated as the project progresses.

The news has been welcomed by the Community, Tourism Committee and the Weir Committee and everyone is looking forward to initial progress on the long standing improvement works for Wilcannia.

7.1.7 INVESTMENTS AND BANK BALANCES

| Schedule of Investments and Bank Balances as at 31st October, 2014 | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|------|---------------|----------|--|--------------|
| | | | Term | Interest Rate | Maturity | | Amount |
| Deposits at Call | | | | | | | |
| | Westpac | 11am Call Account | | | | | \$0 |
| Total Investments as at 31st October, 2014 | | | | | | | \$0 |
| Bank Balances as at 31st October, 2014 | | | | | | | |
| | General Fund | | | | | | \$401,825 OD |
| | (Overdraft limit: | \$3,000,000) | | | | | |
| | Trust Account | | | | | | \$0 In Funds |
| At Call refers to funds held at a financial institution that can be recalled within 24 hours. | | | | | | | |
| Commercial Bills and Term Deposits are short term investments issued by a bank with a promise to pay a specified amount on settlement (being the face value plus interest). | | | | | | | |

10-11-14

That the Information Items report be received and noted

Resolved

SECTION 8. THE RECEIPT OF REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

NIL

SECTION 9. URGENT BUSINESS

11-11-14

That the receipt of the Quarterly Budget Review Statement be declared urgent due to the need to comply with the statutory deadline.

Resolved

The Administrator made the following comments in relation to the Budget Review.

Quarterly Budget Review Statement

The final presentation of this quarterly review for the three months ended 30 September is extremely disappointing. It is disappointing on two fronts – firstly, that it records a deficit for the quarter despite the significant operational savings that have been made over the past 6 months and, secondly, the substantial quantum of the projected year end deficit at more than \$750,000.

My initial reaction was that such a deficit was simply not possible. Major cost savings have been made during 2014 including the non-replacement of at least eight full time staff; the introduction of more part time positions instead of full time positions; the introduction of a margin on third party works and better cost recovery of contract overheads; not to mention an improvement of almost \$300,000 in our Financial Assistance Grants allocation.

Over the last 24 hours I have had discussions with the General Manager, his Directors and the senior financial staff of Broken Hill City Council who we have contracted to undertake the quarterly review. The conclusion that I have drawn – and it is shared by the General Manager – is that the Central Darling accounting systems and data are still not sufficiently accurate or reliable for basing effective financial decisions upon.

It is clear that many budget allocations contained within the system vary considerably from the adopted operational budget and this needs to be rectified as a matter of urgency. To that end, the General Manager has undertaken to commence a high priority project to recast the budget – at both operational and systems levels – before the December Council meeting in order that the true position can be ascertained.

I want to make it clear that the staff of Broken Hill City Council bear no responsibility for this problem, they have simply worked with the data that has been provided to them and, in fact, identified some of the issues of concern. This is a problem that has arisen over several years within the financial management of the Council and it must be rectified now.

As a consequence of the project now being commenced there may well be some slippage of other Recovery Plan actions due in December or early next year and a full report on those implications will be presented to the December meeting also.

12-11-14

The Responsible Accounting Officer's comments and recommendations are endorsed and I resolve to adopt this Quarterly Budget Review Statement as a reflection of performance against the system budget only. A more accurate portrayal of the operational budget will be presented to the December Council meeting.

Resolved

SECTION 10. CONFIDENTIAL MEETING

NIL

SECTION 11. DATE AND VENUE FOR NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Council will be held on the 16th December 2014 in Wilcannia at 9:00am.

There being no further business, Council meeting concluded at 9:26am